

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 01912 220235Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /081 W
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R 210652Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 022
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSYSINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSIN USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TOKYO ADDED AS INFO ADDRESSEE)

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: AS, ID, PT, PFOR, SHUM
SUBJ: TIMOR

1. THE AUSTRALIAN PRESS HAS BEEN FILLED WITH VARIOUS
LEAKED DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO TIMOR. THE POTENTIALLY MOST
DAMAGING LEAKS WERE HANDED TO AN ABC JOURNALIST BY A
MIDDLE-AGED MAN WHO CLAIMED TO BE A PUBLIC SERVANT. THE
EXTRACTS WHICH FOLLOW ARE ALLEGEDLY COPIED FROM DFA CABLES:

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BEGIN TEXT:

FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO WASHINGTON EMBASSY. WE WELCOME YOUR
INFORMATION THAT THE HEARING ON TIMOR MAY BE HELD JOINTLY
WITH THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS SUB-COMMITTEE. WE AGREE
WITH YOUR FEELINGS THAT THE JOINT HEARINGS MIGHT DIS-
SIPATE TO SOME EXTENT THE INTENSITY OF CRITICISMS AGAINST

INDONESIA ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO WASHINGTON EMBASSY. WE DO BELIEVE THAT THE DUNN ALLEGATIONS PROBABLY HAVE SOME BASIS IN TRUTH BUT HIS FIGURES ON THESE ALLEGED KILLINGS OR TORTURE ARE LIKELY TO BE HIGHLY SUSPECT.

WOOLCOTT TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS. I RECOMMEND THAT THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION TO THE FORTHCOMING IGGI (INTER-GOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON INDONESIA) CONFERENCE PLAY AS POSITIVE A ROLE AS POSSIBLE IN SUPPORTING A HIGH LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE BECAUSE OF THE REGIONAL IMPORTANCE TO INDONESIA. THIS APPROACH IS FAR MORE IMPORTANT BECAUSE OF THE DECREASE OF INTEREST IN ASIA BY THE INCOMING US ADMINISTRATION. RECENT ALLEGATIONS OVER HUMAN RIGHTS HAVE CAUSED DIFFICULTIES, PARTICULARLY WITH HOLLAND AND THE UK AND THE ISSUE MAY BE REVIVED. IN OUR OWN CASE A SYMPATHETIC ATTITUDE TO INDONESIA WOULD BE SEEN AS A USEFUL EXAMPLE TO OTHERS AND WOULD HELP TO LESSEN SOME OF THE DAMAGE DONE TO OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH INDONESIA. END TEXT.

2. IN ADDITION, THE TEXT OF A CONFIDENTIAL REPORT WRITTEN BY SENATOR SIM, CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE, INDICATES THAT THE SENATOR TOLD THE GOI TO IGNORE OPPOSITION IN AUSTRALIA TO ITS ACTIONS IN EAST TIMOR. IN HIS REPORT SENATOR SIM SAID QTE I POINTED OUT THAT A GROUP OF PARLIAMENTARIANS, MAINLY FROM THE LEFT, AND SIMILAR GROUPS OUTSIDE PARLIAMENT...WILL CONTINUE TO ATTACK INDONESIA AND THE BEST POLICY WAS TO IGNORE THESE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ATTACKS. END QTE. SIM, SAYING THAT HE WAS MOST CONCERNED THE DOCUMENT HAD BEEN LEAKED, EMPHASIZED THAT HIS REPORT WAS THAT OF A PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL AND NOT THAT OF A GOA REPRESENTATIVE.

3. FINALLY, A PHOTOSTAT OF A BRIEFING PAPER CARRYING A CLASSIFICATION QTE SECRET END QTE. WAS ALSO SHOWN, BUT NOT GIVEN TO THE ABC REPORTER. THIS PAPER STATES THAT THE GOA HAD INTELLIGENCE ON INDONESIAN PLANS TO INVADE EAST TIMOR MORE THAN THREE MONTHS BEFORE ITS MARINES AND PARATROOPERS LANDED THERE. THE REPORT ALLEGEDLY NOTED THAT INDONESIAN FORCES INITIALLY BELIEVED IT WOULD TAKE ONE OR TWO DIVISIONS BETWEEN SIX AND EIGHT DAYS OF COMBINED AIR AND SEA OPERATIONS TO CAPTURE TIMORESE POPULATION CENTERS. INDONESIA BELIEVED THAT TIMOR FORCES WOULD PROBABLY CONTINUE THEIR RESISTANCE INLAND FOR SOME TIME, PERHAPS YEARS. HOWEVER, IT WOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT FOR INDONESIAN FORCES TO HOLD MAJOR TOWNS. PERCIVAL

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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Litigation History:
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